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[REDACTED]

POLAND: Continued Resistance

Sporadic resistance to martial law continues, and the atmosphere remains volatile. [REDACTED]

Conflicting media coverage suggests that there is debate within the regime on Lech Walesa's fate. [REDACTED]

There have been several additional silent marches in and near Lublin, primarily involving students. The expulsion of 81 students from the local university reportedly has prompted some to delay other protests until spring. In Torun, the police over the weekend broke up a clandestine student organization that allegedly was distributing antiregime and anti-Soviet leaflets. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] unconfirmed reports of sporadic, short protests in local factories and rumors of an impending student demonstration. He believes that the excessive use of force against students there on 13 February has appalled most citizens and increased the chances of more serious demonstrations. [REDACTED]

Swedish radio recently broadcast a tape recording--smuggled out of Poland--of an alleged clandestine radio transmission. Neither this "broadcast" nor those mentioned in previous press reports, however, have been monitored in the West. [REDACTED]

Comment: Although there evidently have been fewer incidents of actual resistance over the past week than during the first half of February, anger and frustration continue to run deep. In such an atmosphere, minor local protests could get out of control, especially if the police overreact. Despite government warnings of greater repression, there is still a widespread expectation of increased opposition in the spring. [REDACTED]

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In contrast, another senior bishop--who is known for his militant defense of Church rights--was noncommittal about near-term prospects. The bishop, however, did not see any threat of repression to the Church, saying that the party realized this would only further alienate it from the nation. He said that the Church would learn to live with a regime not entirely of its liking.

Comment: [REDACTED] concern about hardline machinations and possible Soviet military intervention reflects longstanding Church fears that have prompted it to play a moderating role. He also represents that part of the clergy which has been most critical of the regime and most pessimistic about the short-term outlook.

[REDACTED]

Press Statements on Walesa

The Polish news agency and the military daily have explicitly criticized Walesa for serving as a figurehead in an anti-Communist crusade and opposing the interests of the working class. Last Saturday, the party daily approvingly cited Walesa's statement to his priest that he had not authorized any leaflets calling for resistance to martial law.

Comment: The attack on Walesa indicates that some in the regime have given up on trying to get him to cooperate. The contrasting coverage, however, suggests

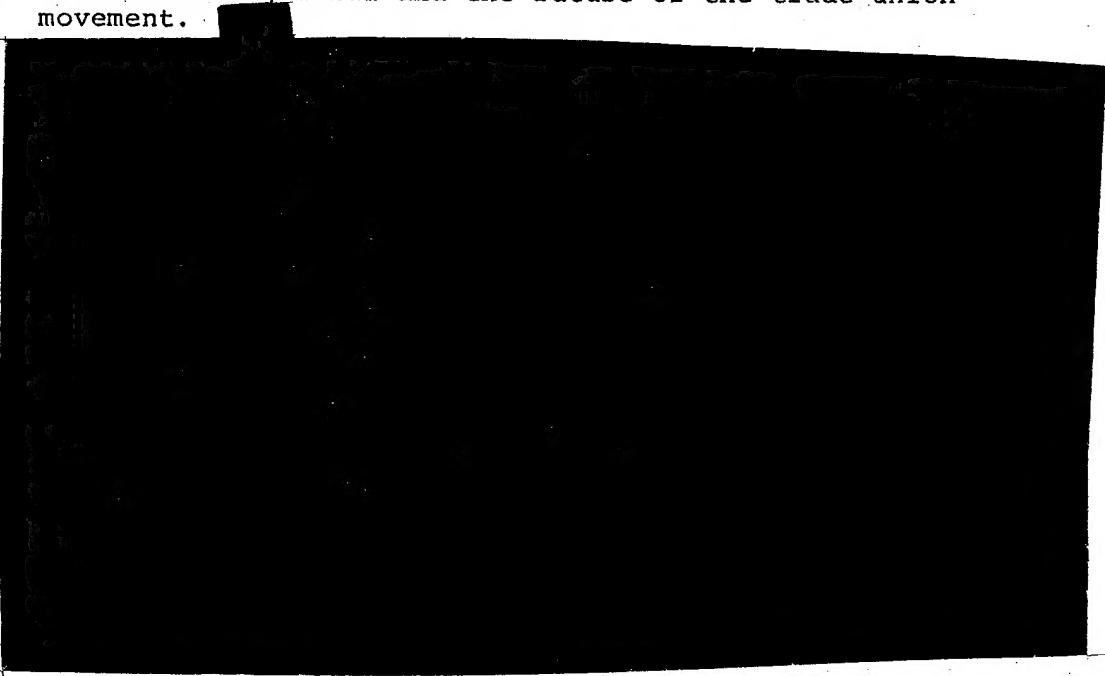
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continuing debate over what to do with Walesa. It also could reflect a broader internal debate over the fate of internees in general and the future of the trade union movement.



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